



# THE BELL RINGER



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## Changes Enhance Every Aspect of MBA

by Michael Pans

At the end of every summer, there are always mixed feelings about returning to school. As we begin the 2000-2001 school year, we can expect a Montgomery Bell Academy that has changed and matured, but at the same time has retained its values and traditions. The students and faculty look forward to the new facilities such as an improved Carter Building and a renovated Gymnasium, locker room, and weight room.

Mr. Tillman has changed jobs from Athletic Director to Head of High School and Mr. Canfield will be doing a new job at MBA, acting as Assistant

Head of High School. Additionally, Mr. McBride will be serving as Dean of the ninth and tenth grades, which is also a new position. A few teachers retired or moved on to other careers at the end of last year, so we will have some new faces in the classroom.

The campus changes are probably the most noticeable this year. Because the campus has changed a great deal over the last few years, and enormous sums of money have been given to and spent by the school, it would seem that MBA's focus has shifted from academics to fund raising and increasing the school's prestige. By taking a closer look, however, it is

very evident that MBA's academics, arts, and athletics are only becoming stronger. MBA students continue to win academic awards, competitions, and gain acceptance to elite colleges and universities. Our debate and football teams are recognized among the nation's elite, reaching the top ten in more than one national poll.

The Carter Building is finally finished and with its new student center, publications room, and Big Red Store, should prove to be a popular and much-utilized addition to the campus. The beloved cannons of MBA, which were removed from the campus last year, have been placed back, but in front of Carter

instead. Although they are not visible from Harding Road, as many had desired, the Civil War cannons still have a presence on top of the hill in their new spot.

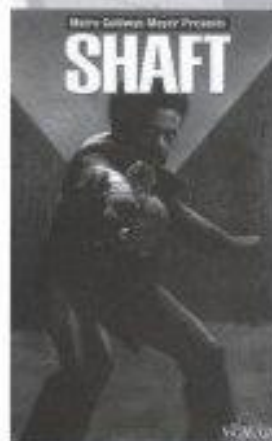
Unfortunately, the renovations to the Curry Gymnasium, which include new locker rooms and new weight and wrestling facilities, are not finished. But the it is felt by faculty and students alike that the final product will prove to be well worth the wait. So be patient.

With over two years of construction almost complete and some terrific faculty additions to our campus, we can all look forward to a tremendous year at MBA.

## Summer Movies

by Deke Shearn

Dear Samuel L. Jackson, plays Jules Winnfield without the hair. Nobody can ease better than Samuel L. Jackson. Forget James Earl Ray and Charlton Heston, this guy has the coolest voice



Shift: As good as the original. ever. With the intensity of Emmett Russell on a bad day, Shaft just goes through this movie beating people up. Christian Bale plays The Worst Man Who Ever Lived, a rich racist white-collar murderer who is meaner than the crack dealer in this movie. God, nowadays a villain has to be Satan to get the audience to root against him.

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## Big Red Machine in Motion with Two Wins Under Belt

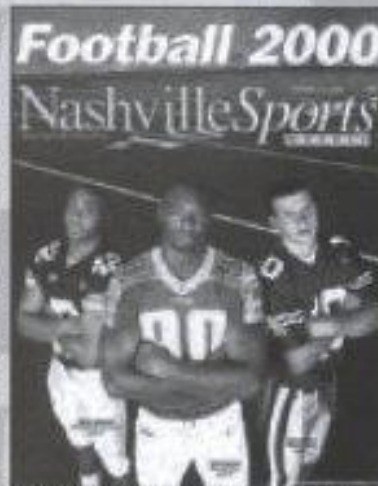
by Sameet Vakkath

The Big Red football machine started their 2000 campaign right where it left off in 1999 dominating opponents both offensively and defensively.

Opening against two perennial powerhouses in Lincoln County and Oakland didn't slow MBA down. In the opener against Lincoln County, Eagle Martin led the way rushing for 283 yards and 4 touchdowns on 11 carries, passing for 177 yards as he completed 7 of 16 passes, and intercepting a Lincoln County pass on defense. Lincoln County's lone touchdown of the game came in the second quarter on a 17-yard pass from Liko Buckley to Brandon Geice. As the final horn blew, MBA had a 41-7 opening night win.

On August 25th, it was the Big Red running attack that carried MBA offensively. Reid Murphy ran for 106 yards and three touchdowns on 12 carries, and Dominique Morris pitched in

75 yards on 11 carries. On defense, both Murphy and Zach Wall recovered



Procession All-American Eagle Martin is one of at least five Division I recruits leading the Big Red this year.

fumbles. B.J. Phillips had two sacks, and Steve Ingram intercepted a pass.

After being shut out for three quarters by MBA's first team defense, Oakland added two late touchdowns and a safety to make the final score 38-15.

Eagle Martin, shown here in his feature in Nashville Sports Weekly along with the Titans' Jevon Kearse and Vanderbilt's Jamie Winborn, is one of at least five division one recruits on this year's squad. Tailback/wide receiver/quarterback Dominique Morris, running back/linebacker Moses Osemelegie, tight-end/defensive end B.J. Phillips, and running back Reid Murphy, who have all received a good deal of attention in the local media as well, all have Division I potential.

Ranked in the nation's top ten in several high school polls, MBA has established itself among the country's elite.

On September 1st, the Big Red plays its first divisional game at Baylor, who looks to have a decent season this year themselves, and should extend the impressive winning streak to 23 games.

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## Summer Movie Reviews: The Good and the Bad

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**The Cell:** Hey, Vincent D'Onofrio plays a psycho? Man, range is this dude's middle name. In this particular movie he manages to look like a cross between Beck, John Malkovich, and a 20-pound slab of beef. Jennifer Lopez, on the other hand, is just along for the ride, and possesses the innate acting abilities of a wounded calf. She does however, randomly have her pants off in one scene, which is never, ever a bad thing. Vince Vaughn proves that he will never be in a cool movie that's not Swingers. As for the visuals, the movie does provide cool things in spades...but none of them make up for the fact that the dialogue must have been written in the last stall on the right in some Planet Hollywood somewhere. Is that the cool coach dude from Major League playing Vince Vaughn's boss?

**The Perfect Storm:** Oh my god, Mark Wahlburg's facial hair looks like my attempts to grow sideburns freshman year. Sorry buddy, some people just can't grow a beard, ask Mr. Russ. George Clooney has a nice, gruff 5 o'clock shadow, and John C. Reilly grows a freaking pedophile beard. Man, if I ran a convenience store, and that guy came in asking to use the bathroom, there is no way I would give him the key. The

movie itself is pretty boring until the last 30 minutes or something. I've heard interviews where the director, some German dude who isn't Paul Verhoeven (meaning he doesn't matter) is like, "I wanted to build ze tension...so the audience cares when ze storm heats."



Mission Impossible 2 "blows away the first one on every level."

Sorry buddy, I don't care about crazy heroic fisherman. And I really don't care about crazy heroic fishermen's families. And jeez, what a HORRIBLE titular line this movie has!



The Perfect Storm: not as suspenseful as expected.

**What Lies Beneath:** I had low expectations for this movie, as I do for any movie directed by the Antichrist Robert Zemeckis. Hey Bobby, CONTACT STUNK. Hey Bobby, I HATE FORREST GUMP. Make another movie about a retard or an agnostic with godawful right-wing propaganda disguised as New Age beliefs, and I swear I will boycott you and Tom Hanks for the rest of your

natural lives. This movie, on the other hand, manages to not stink. It has a few good twists, some interesting cinematography, and actually decent

acting from Han Solo, who has been on cruise control for, I don't know, forever. The trailer for this movie succeeds in giving away the first HOUR of this movie. HATE HATE HATE. Zemeckis' first decent movie not starring Michael J. Fox.

benefit this movie. I'm totally serious, this blows away every single other movie out there---every single one. And it is all because of one man. Owen C. Wilson. You don't know about him, unless you've seen Bottle Rocket (one of the top 10 movies of the 90s, according to Marty Scorsese and me, go see it or stop being my friend). He co-wrote Rushmore; he was the cowboy in Armageddon and played in that suckfest The Haunting. In this movie, he manages to be himself and man, what a cool man this guy is. Jackie Chan also finally gets a lady friend. This is the funniest movie to come out since The Big Lebowski. A true sleeper.

**Time Code:** In 20 years, when I am grown up, with 2.5 kids, living in Belle Meade on my sizable income earned illegally through the Columbian rabbit-smuggling trade, I will look back on my teenage years. I will look back, and I will remember one dark, black blemish on these otherwise happy days. It is Time Code. This movie was awful. First-degree, with malice aforethought. I don't know the director, I don't have any right to comment on him, he might

WHAT LIES BENEATH

What Lies Beneath proves a redeeming movie for Robert Zemeckis.

without the race card being played up in the screenplay. Did I mention that John Woo rules? This movie manages to blow away the first one on every level, except for the score (Danny Elfman did the first one). This movie was written by the dude who did Chinatown! So it can't stink, right?

**Shanghai Noon:** Oh my God, this is the best movie of the summer. Go see it right now. I will buy your ticket, just to

be a totally cool dude with a nice home theater and a cool bathroom, but, Mike Figgis, I hate you. How dare you impose this horrible, horrible, festering pile of stinkiness upon my eyes. Nobody has ever made drug use, lesbianism, infidelity, and misogyny so horribly, horribly boring. And, hey, Salma Hayek, the mail doesn't come on Sunday, honey, and you'd better stick with Robert Rodriguez movies and letting QT suck on your toes.

## MBA-Bolles Rivalry Extends to Cross Country

by Nick Reid

On September eighth, the MBA football and cross country teams will travel to Jacksonville, Florida to compete against The Bolles School in head-to-head competition. Upon arriving in Florida via chartered aircraft, the cross country team will run a three mile race on the grounds of the Bolles Campus. Later that night, the football

team will participate in a rematch of last year's nail-biting game against Bolles. Both of these match-ups present formidable challenges and should serve as good measuring sticks for each team's early season progress.

Last year's MBA-Bolles match up proved to be an exhilarating and hard-hitting clash between two very talented football teams. Thanks to the last minute heroics of MBA quarterback

Ingle Martin, the Big Red secured a 26-21 victory. While MBA went on to win their second consecutive state championship, Bolles was later bounced from the playoffs before even reaching the quarterfinals. Due to their current enrollment, Bolles is a member of Florida's smaller 2A classification.

Recently I had the chance to talk to Bolles Coach Corky Rodgers about this year's team. Despite losing

their starting quarterback from last year's squad, Bolles returns a talented backfield. Led by D-I tailback prospect Antoine Sharp, fullback Matt Terry, and wingback Julio Santiago, Bolles looks to establish a strong ground game. On the defensive side of the ball, the bulldogs are led by outside linebacker and University of Florida signee Todd

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## Bolles Preview

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McCullough. Despite a strong nucleus of returning seniors, Coach Rodgers fears his team's lack of depth. "I feel pretty comfortable when our core group of seniors is on the field. Our main weakness lies in our small junior class. Only four juniors in the whole school play football. Without a reliable junior class, we will be forced to rely heavily on our young and inexperienced sophomores." These younger players will receive an early test as eight starters will be sidelined for the season opener due to injuries. With the Big Red currently steam rolling the competition, it appears that the injury-depleted Bolles could be in for a long night. The Big Red cross country team will be participating in the first ever dual meet on the grounds of the Bolles campus. According to Bolles' coach Tony Ryan, the buildings are paced by senior Eric Czervonke who posted an impressive 16:20 at last year's region meet and has led the team since his freshman year. With three runners returning from last year's team that finished district and region champs, Coach Ryan expects Bolles to field a talented and experienced squad.

MBA will be a tough opponent with only two runners lost off a team that finished second in the state last year. Leading the pack will be Morgan Miller and his spiffy aqua swamp Nike trainers, the greatest invention since the Walrus Tarebourne. Senior leadership will be provided by the wily Jeff Sweetney, distance guru Drew Conrad, and the man they call Herring.

The golf team was actually offered the chance to go down and play The Bolles School on the same day as the cross country and football teams. Although the courses in the Jacksonville area would have made the day trip worth their while, our golf squad declined for reasons unknown.

The MBA cross country and football teams have high expectations for the upcoming seasons and are prepared to face the challenge that Bolles presents. Bring on the Bulldogs!

## College Football 2000

by Steven Syverud

The leaves are beginning to change color, the days are getting a little colder, and school is starting up again. All signs point to the start of another college football season.

This year there are many would-be contenders for a spot in College Football's championship game in Miami at the FedEx Orange Bowl. But when the dust settles only two teams will be lucky enough to garner an invitation to this coveted event.

Despite losing star running back Shaun Alexander, Alabama will emerge undefeated from a weaker-than-usual SEC. The Crimson Tide's toughest regular season match up comes against Tennessee at Neyland Stadium on October 21<sup>st</sup>. No matter who is playing quarterback, Bama's over-powering defense will give UT some trouble. Tennessee's inexperienced secondary will be torched by Alabama's Heisman Trophy candidate, wide receiver Prodee Milons. In the SEC championship game, the Crimson Tide will beat Florida who will come out on top in the SEC East. The Gators will squeak out a victory at Knoxville by shutting down the Vols offense and putting up just enough points with their shaky offense. Georgia will offer no problem for Florida with the Bulldogs' awful defense and lack of a proven running back. In the SEC championship game, look for a replay of last year's game as the Crimson Tide beat the Gators by letting Milons run wild. The Alabama defense will shut down a Florida attack which lacks a strong quarterback and play making wide receivers.

In ACC play, Florida State will go undefeated but they will lose to Miami on October 7<sup>th</sup> at Miami's Orange Bowl. This year's version of the Hurricanes evokes memories of the great Miami teams of the eighties. The Hurricane's high octane offense and strong defense (with nine starters back) will be too much for the Seminoles to handle after the loss of their star receiver Peter Warrick.

The Big East title will go to whoever wins the November 4<sup>th</sup> match up between Virginia Tech and Miami. Although Virginia Tech's Michael Vick will put up great numbers on offense, the Hoosiers defense will not stop Miami's offense. Look for Miami to join Alabama in the ranks of the undefeated at the year's end.

From the Big Ten, Michigan will emerge on top. With a line that features preseason All-Americans Steve Hutchinson and Jeff Backus,

powerful running back Anthony Thomas, one of the nation's top receivers in David Terrell, and a quarterback in Drew Henson with a strong arm, good mobility, and two years of experience, the Wolverines will offer a potent offense. The defense must gel, however, before a tough Big Ten slate which begins with Wisconsin visiting Ann Arbor, and the biggest stadium in college football, on September 30<sup>th</sup>. In this match up, Michigan will triumph over the Badgers, who will learn very fast how much Heisman winner Ron Dayne meant to their team. As usual, competition in the Big Ten will be very tough, but Michigan will defeat Penn State and Ohio State, who are quickly descending from their posts as Big Ten powers, and also triumph over Illinois and Purdue, who have strong offenses but weak defenses. As Big Ten play comes to end, Michigan will have an unblemished record.

Nebraska will be the outright and undefeated winner in the Big Twelve. As usual they have a strong offensive line and a handful of talented running backs, but this year they also have talented quarterback Eric Crouch, a great wingback in Bobby Newcombe, and an incredible defense. Nebraska will defeat Kansas State, because the

Wildcats lack a proven quarterback and running back. In the Big Twelve Championship game, the Cornhuskers will defeat a Texas team which has two good quarterbacks, in Major Applewhite and Chris Sims, and a great defense, but an awful offensive line (they allowed twenty sacks in their last three games of last year) and no play making wideouts. Nebraska, too, will be undefeated.

TCU will round out the roll call of undefeated teams. Their talented running back LaDainian Tomlinson, who led the nation in rushing last year, a strong offensive line, and an experienced defense will roll over eleven weak opponents.

So five teams will be undefeated in all: Alabama, Miami, Michigan, Nebraska, and TCU. The BCS system of picking just two teams for the national championship will be widely ridiculed as two deserving teams will be left out of the Orange Bowl (TCU will not deserve anything for beating eleven horrible teams). The BCS most likely will pick Alabama and Michigan to play for the championship, primarily because they have the toughest schedules. The two teams will then play a close game in a rematch of last year's Orange Bowl, but Alabama will fall as their kicker Lane Bearden misses an extra point in overtime.

## The Bell Ringer

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